

Mr. TESTER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Further, if present and voting, The Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) would have voted "yea."; and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 87, nays 7, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 55 Ex.]

#### YEAS—87

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Risch
Blackburn	Hickenlooper	Romney
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Blunt	Hoeven	Rounds
Booker	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Boozman	Johnson	Sanders
Braun	Kaine	Sasse
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Cantwell	Kennedy	Schumer
Capito	King	Scott (SC)
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Lankford	Shelby
Casey	Leahy	Sinema
Cassidy	Lee	Smith
Collins	Lujan	Stabenow
Coons	Lummis	Sullivan
Cornyn	Manchin	Tester
Cortez Masto	Markey	Thune
Cramer	McConnell	Tillis
Crapo	Menendez	Tuberville
Daines	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Fischer	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wicker
Graham	Peters	Wyden
Grassley	Portman	Young

#### NAYS—7

Cotton	Hagerty	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Hawley	
Ernst	Marshall	

#### NOT VOTING—6

Barrasso	Inhofe	Paul
Burr	Moran	Toomey

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Ohio.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Ohio.

(At the request of Mr. TESTER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### CONFIRMATION OF DENIS RICHARD McDONOUGH

• Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I would like to speak in support of confirming Denis McDonough to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Mr. McDonough has demonstrated his dedication to public service over the last 25 years and has assured me that he will bring that same dedication to the Department of Veterans Affairs in its mission to serve our veterans.

He has experience leading and implementing policy across the Federal Government and has earned a reputation for being able to make government work better. Although he is not a veteran, he has made his case that he is personally devoted to serving veterans and seeing them achieve success, and it is my belief that he is sincere in that assertion.

Mr. McDonough testified that he appreciates the clear roles of Congress in passing law and of the executive branch in executing them. He has committed to me and to our committee that he will faithfully implement critical VA reforms in line with congressional intent, and I intend to hold him accountable for the decisions and actions he makes as Secretary.

We have made significant progress with the VA to provide permanent veterans' choice in access to care, mental health and suicide prevention, employee accountability, and improved benefits for veterans, their dependents, and survivors. We cannot backtrack on this progress, and the next VA Secretary must be ready on day one to continue building on this success.

I will support Mr. McDonough's confirmation and hold him to his commitment to work with our committee and with our veteran stakeholders to deliver the improved benefits and services Congress has legislated. •

#### REMEMBERING RICHARD THORNBURGH

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I want to pay tribute to the late Richard L. Thornburgh, a former Pennsylvania Governor and former U.S. Attorney General. Dick Thornburgh was also a hero to the disability community for his longstanding advocacy for the rights and self-determination of people with disabilities.

Born in Pittsburgh on July 16, 1932, Dick received an undergraduate degree from Yale University and a law degree from the University of Pittsburgh Law School before going into private practice.

In 1969, President Richard Nixon appointed Dick as the U.S. attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania, and in 1975, President Gerald Ford appointed him to serve as the Assistant

Attorney General for the Justice Department's Criminal Division. Two years later, he returned to Pennsylvania.

In 1978, Dick was elected Governor of Pennsylvania and was reelected in 1982, becoming the first Republican to serve two successive terms as Governor of the Commonwealth.

During his time in office, Governor Thornburgh provided a steady hand and a calm demeanor. Most notably, he led Pennsylvania through the Three Mile Island crisis, America's worst nuclear meltdown. He took charge of the crisis and in so doing won praise from President Jimmy Carter and from Pennsylvanians for how he handled the potential disaster. At the time of the Three Mile Island Crisis, Governor Thornburgh said:

You have to reassure people. You have to go before the cameras and microphones and tell them what you know and what you don't. You have to stop the rumors and, of course, you have to make decisions. There isn't any Republican or Democratic way to deal with a nuclear crisis. Nobody has ever had to deal with this kind of accident before.

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan nominated Governor Thornburgh to be the U.S. Attorney General, a position in which he served until 1991. He resigned in 1991 to run for the U.S. Senate in Pennsylvania following the tragic death of Senator John Heinz in a plane crash. Governor Thornburgh lost the Senate election to Harris Wofford, who had been appointed to the vacancy 6 months before the 1991 election.

Following his Senate run, Governor Thornburgh served a 1-year appointment as Under-Secretary General at the United Nations at the request of President George H.W. Bush. In that role, he sought to bring reform, transparency, and accountability to the United Nations.

After his service at the United Nations, Governor Thornburgh returned to private practice but would continue to serve in advisory roles at the State and Federal level, imparting his wisdom and experience in a number of different arenas.

Of his many contributions to public life, Governor Thornburgh was especially respected in the disability rights community for his tireless advocacy for the rights and self-determination of people with disabilities.

Governor Thornburgh's son, Peter, was injured in a car accident in 1960, a tragic accident that also killed Thornburgh's wife, Ginny Hooton. The accident left Peter Thornburgh, then just 4 months of age, with a significant brain injury that caused physical and intellectual disabilities. Governor Thornburgh is quoted as saying that the accident "made him think about what he could do with his life to contribute to the world."

As Attorney General in Bush Administration, Dick Thornburgh helped to shepherd the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, through Congress during a most critical period in 1989. On

June 21, 1989, then Attorney General Thornburgh affirmed to the disability community and the Nation the Bush administration's intent to support the passage of the ADA and to sign the legislation when Congress passed the bill.

When the ADA passed Congress, Attorney General Thornburgh said that the day was "one of emancipation, not just for the millions of Americans with disabilities who will directly benefit from this Act, but even more so for the rest of us now free to benefit from the contributions which those with a disability can make to our economy, our communities and our own well-being."

Walter Cohen, who served as both Pennsylvania's secretary of public welfare and attorney general, stated that Governor Thornburgh was responsible for Pennsylvania creating home and community based services for people with disabilities and for ordering the closure of the Pennhurst State School and Hospital, which had been found to be housing hundreds of people with developmental and intellectual disabilities in squalor.

Mr. President, for many Governor Thornburgh is known for his decades of public service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and to the Federal Government. He is deserving of this recognition, and the people of Pennsylvania owe him their deepest gratitude for his service. But any discussion of Governor Thornburgh's service would be incomplete if we did not pause to note that because of his efforts, in part, the lives of people with disabilities have been dramatically improved. Our built environment and transportation system have been made available to all people. It is now understood that every child, no matter their disability, has the right to a quality, public education. People with disabilities, rather than living in institutions, are now free to grow up and flourish in the community and setting of their choice.

These opportunities may be taken for granted now, but they were hard fought gains achieved through the sweat and tears of the disability community and those who fought alongside them every step of the way. Dick Thornburgh was one of the greatest of these champions. His public service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is worthy of commendation. We extend condolences to Dick's wife, Ginny, his sons, John, David, Peter and William, and to his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

#### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL RAY RENOLA

Mr. REED. Madam President, today I pay tribute to a very special Rhode Islander, COL Ray Renola, USA (Ret.), who holds a unique distinction among all Americans.

Mr. Renola, at 104 years old, is the oldest living graduate of my alma mater, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. A member of the class of 1940, Mr. Renola stands at the head of the Long Grey Line of West Pointers who have served the Nation since 1802.

As described in a recent column by Mark Patinkin in the Providence Journal, Ray was the son of Italian immigrants and one of eight children raised on the West End of Providence. He was a graduate of Classical High School in Providence and then entered Brown University, but in 1936, he made the decision to serve his country and restart and complete his college education at West Point.

Like many of our World War II veterans, Ray did not talk much about his service on the western front as a lieutenant colonel and commanding officer of the 375th Field Artillery Battalion. In short, he deployed his battalion and led them against fierce enemy resistance, unpredictable weather, harsh terrain, and austere conditions. And he led them as they made great contributions to Allied forces during the push toward Berlin in 1944-1945. After the war, Ray continued his service to our country with postings from Belgium to the Pentagon, before retiring from the military after 20 years of service. He had a similarly successful career in the private sector, working for Bulova and GTE.

He found the love of his life with Lucille, to whom he was married for 30 years, until her passing in 2010. They shared an active life of sport and travel. He remains the loved and revered patriarch of the larger, extended Renola family.

Ray embodies what it means to live an extraordinary life: love for his country; love for his family; a life of duty, honor, and country.

#### RECOGNIZING JANE HARMAN

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, when Jane Harman left Congress in 2011 to head the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, she described herself as dedicated to the belief that the political center is where most Americans are and where the best policy answers are found. As this great leader and my dear friend steps down from the Wilson Center, I take this opportunity to thank her for unswerving devotion to that principle.

Our friendship was forged in the challenging days after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Reaching across the aisle, we worked closely together as leaders of the Homeland Security committees in the House and Senate. From the landmark intelligence reform legislation we crafted, to addressing protections for our Nation's cargo ports and other critical infrastructure, to improving emergency preparedness in communities throughout America, Jane was always an informed, effective, and committed partner.

I will never forget how, when Jane testified at a Senate Homeland Security Committee hearing on maritime security in 2006, she called me her "Security Sister." It is a title that fills my heart with pride and affection.

Jane's untiring work to protect our Nation defines her public service.

Elected nine times by the people of California's 36th Congressional District, she served on all major security committees—Homeland Security, Intelligence, and Armed Services. She served as ranking member of the Intelligence Committee's Working Group on Terrorism and Homeland Security and chaired the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing, and Terrorism Risk Assessment.

After Jane left Congress, she served as a member of the Director of National Intelligence's Senior Advisory Group. She currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Trilateral Commission and the Advisory Board of the Munich Security Conference. She also cochairs the Homeland Security Experts Group and is a member of the Presidential Debates Commission and the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

Jane has been recognized as a national expert at the nexus of security and public policy issues with the Defense Department Medal for Distinguished Service, the CIA Agency Seal Medal and Director's Award, and the Director of National Intelligence Distinguished Public Service Medal. The University of Southern California's Presidential Medallion, its highest award, is a fitting tribute to her outstanding service to her State and to our Nation.

Jane is the first woman to lead the Wilson Center. Chartered by Congress in 1968, the center is the Nation's key nonpartisan policy forum for tackling global issues through independent research and open dialogue. Under her leadership, the center advanced its mission to generate actionable ideas for policies that affect our security and our relations with the world.

No tribute to Jane would be complete without mention of her late husband, Sidney. Driven by a shared ideal of public service, they accomplished so much in politics, business, philanthropy, and the arts.

I thank Jane Harman—my colleague, my friend, my "sister"—for all that she has done for our country. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING RALPH "CHAD" COLLEY, JR.

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life of Ralph "Chad" Colley, Jr., who passed away on January 30, 2021, at the age of 76. Mr. Colley was a hero in every sense of the word. His courage, positive nature, and life of service provided a shining light that inspired everyone around him.

Colley was a veteran of the Vietnam war, a gold medal athlete, an accomplished pilot, a successful businessman, and a tireless advocate for veterans and all Americans with disabilities. His military honors included the Silver